



VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN

1201 West University Drive • Edinburg, Texas 78539-2999 • Office (956) 665-5301 • Fax (956) 665-5308

Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

In a state where nearly 40 percent of residents are Hispanic or Latino, supporting organizations and programs that seek to empower these residents is of the utmost importance. I am the Vice President for University Advancement at The University of Texas Pan American (UTPA) – one of the top Hispanic-serving institutions in the country. I have had a long-standing, productive relationship with Time Warner Cable, and I believe that the proposed transaction with Comcast will further that relationship. I support the proposed TWC/Comcast transaction because of Comcast's excellent track record of supporting minority and low-income communities.

Texas has recently become the breeding ground of some of the country's most innovative science and technology projects. Recognizing this development, as well as a local shortage of scientists and engineers, UTPA created the Hispanic Engineering, Science, and Technology (HESTEC) program. HESTEC's goal is to promote STEM careers among students and the community and to stimulate other technology-related initiatives in the community with the goal of closing the digital divide. TWC has been a major sponsor and supporter of the HESTEC Week project since its inception in 2002. HESTEC Week features numerous events aimed at engaging pre-college students, educators, and the community.

Having an opportunity to partner with a company like Comcast that clearly appreciates the need to advance STEM education in the U.S. is something we sincerely look forward to. As provider of the nation's largest and most comprehensive broadband adoption program, Comcast shares our goal of creating the STEM workforce of tomorrow and closing the digital divide. Comcast's Internet Essentials program offers low-cost Internet, computers and free digital training services at local community centers. Since many public school students in our region take part in the National School Lunch Program, a large number of families will reap the benefits of the Internet Essentials program. This program is helping to level the playing field in education systems in Houston and in other Comcast areas around the country. With Comcast's extension of the program into the areas it acquires in this transaction, it will play a significant role in advancing opportunities to low-income families in more local schools here in Texas. It is an important first step in making sure that our students are workforce ready for the STEM-driven economy that awaits them.

I hope the FCC will approve the proposed transaction between Comcast and Time Warner Cable. As Texas advances to a new stage of technological discovery, it is imperative that our low-income and minority community members aren't left behind. Comcast has one of the most successful programs to counteract this issue and more residents in Texas deserve a chance to participate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Veronica Gonzales", is written over a horizontal line.

Veronica Gonzales  
Vice President for University Advancement